

## *New Hampshire Veterans Home Honors Volunteers*

TILTON, NH – What happens when you get more than 60 human volunteers, six volunteer dogs, and nearly a dozen veterans' service organizations all together at the New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH) in Tilton?

Lisa Perry, NHVH Volunteer Coordinator says, "You improve the quality of life for all of our residents! Volunteers at the Veterans Home are involved in all kinds of activities and special events," Perry explains. "We like to match volunteers with things that interest them and make a difference in the lives of our residents." Some of the NHVH volunteer activities include one-on-one visits with residents; they help with the Writing Group, art, entertainment, Sunshine Cart, Bingo, cards, dominoes, fishing, exercise groups, secretarial assistance, switchboard, and the Veterans History Project. Volunteers also help run the Veterans Home store, assist residents on shopping trips, help coordinate special events, and communicate Veterans Home needs to organizations they represent.

NHVH celebrated Volunteer Appreciation Week and honored its volunteers at a luncheon at the Greenside Restaurant at Lochmere Country Club on Wednesday, April 30. Perry says, "We are so fortunate at the Veterans Home to have such a great group of volunteers. They work so well with our staff, and the residents are very grateful for the time they share with them. Each of our volunteers is very special and we thank them all for their dedication to our veterans."

Joanne Berry, of Sanbornton, represents the Department of New Hampshire Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary at the New Hampshire Veterans Home, where she has clocked more than 2,000 volunteer hours in the past sixteen years. She likes to help out wherever she's needed and especially enjoys taking residents on



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trips. She's been bowling, apple picking and blueberry picking; she's visited the Wright Museum in Wolfeboro with NHVH residents, and she's looking forward to helping take residents from the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit out for ice cream soon. She says, "If

everyone volunteered one hour at the Veterans Home, it would be the most rewarding hour of their life."

NHVH volunteers must be at least twelve years old and go through an informal orientation. Each volunteer is supervised by a staff person. For more information about volunteering and a tour of the Veterans Home, please contact Lisa Perry at (603) 527-4449.



**Betty Whelpley** (left) and her daughter, **Mary Hebert**, both volunteer at the Veterans Home, where Betty's son/Mary's brother, **Bill Whelpley**, is a resident. Betty and Mary both enjoy working in the NHVH store and are very excited about the improvements in the Home's "Main Street" area.